

Dear Pinelands Players friends and family

As a new committee we are excited to bring you our very first newsletter of 2024. Thank you to all our members for your continued support and investment in our amazing community theatre group.

AGM 2023

On Sunday, 3rd March, members of Pinelands Players gathered for the 2023 AGM. At the AGM, members had an opportunity to reflect on the past year's achievements, to discuss the future plans for the organisation, as well as raise points for consideration by the new Committee.

Three longstanding Committee members - Laura Bosman, Tina Gough and Shaun Browne - stepped down at the AGM. We thank them for their dedication and hard work in guiding Pinelands Players over the years. Philippa van Ryneveld (Chair), Lyle Wilson and Robyn Law (Secretary) remained on the team, taking on new roles, and were joined by Rob Hill (Treasurer), Jean Wilke and Lisa Pillay. The team have



been meeting and working on new ideas and plans and the stage is set for another exciting year for Pinelands Players!

Under the leadership of the previous committee, we started the year off with the resounding success of *Legally Blonde: The Musical*. It is going to be a huge stepping stone for us, and a big legacy to follow on from. As we sit back and reminisce on our days spent at Harvard Law, we would also like to share with you what else has transpired so far this year, as well as some of our plans and dreams for the future.

Farewell to Richard Whittaker

After the dust had settled from the *Legally Blonde* strike, it was unfortunately down to some sad business: saying farewell to Richard Whittaker as he moves to Mossel Bay to be closer to family. Although it was a bittersweet Friday evening, it was lovely to see faces we haven't seen in a while and a few new ones. It was great to be back at the clubhouse which was filled with laughter and reminiscences of shows Richard had been involved in. He has been an asset to every community theatre society in Cape Town, stretching from the Masque to Milnerton.

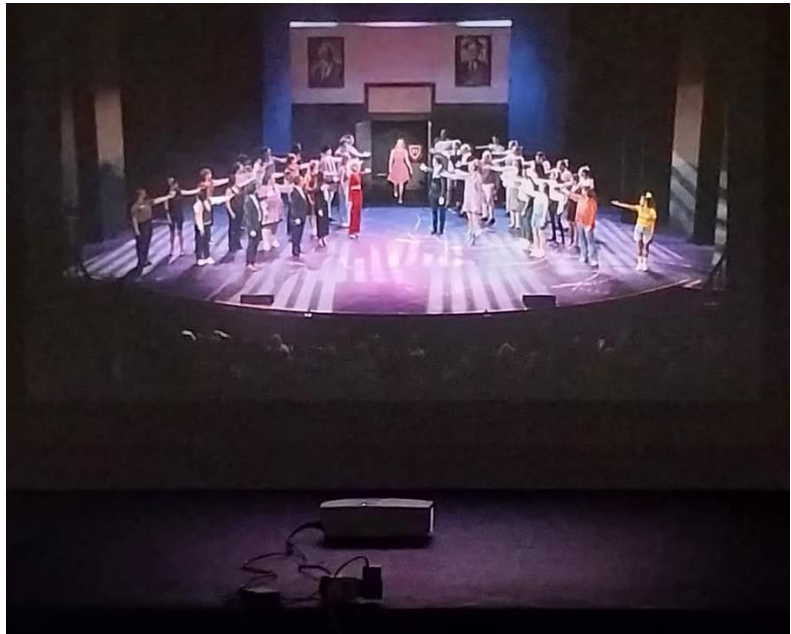


He was instrumental in building the set of Baltimore for our 2019 production of *Hairspray* and even more recently the wonderful revolving main set piece that was Harvard / Deltu Nu in *Legally Blonde*. We at Pinelands Players could not be more thankful that he shared so much of his passion and skill with us over the years. We wish him well family and look forward to raising a beer with him when he comes to visit.

Legally Blonde screening party

OMG you guys! On the 21st of April, the cast and crew of Pinelands Players' *Legally Blonde: The Musical* got together for a screening party, where they painted Milnerton Playhouse pink. Popcorn, snacks, and a tray of glittery pink cupcakes set the scene for them to take over Harvard Law School, but this time they watched the product of their hard work from the auditorium, rather than singing along and dancing to their favourite songs from the wings. Which cast took to the screen for each of Act One and Act Two was left up to chance. A ceremonial draw determined that the Blonde cast would be on-screen for Act One, while the Legal cast would take on Act Two.

It was a wonderful afternoon reconnecting with friends and reflecting on the hard work that produced a phenomenal production that Cape Town is still talking about (if we do say so ourselves). It is only fitting to extend our massive thanks to the cast and crew for their work on this show, but a special thanks must be given to Director Kyla Thorburn and Musical Director Barend van der Westhuizen for their inimitable vision and dedication to bringing this amazing show to life!



Plans Going Forward

Our broad plan for the next three years is to gradually build up to another big show. 2024 is a year of consolidation, but we hope to focus on cementing the social/community aspects of the Society. We plan to host our well-received Subway Sessions as well as members' evenings which will include everything from quizzes to play readings, workshops, and general fun. There are also plans afoot to spruce up our Clubhouse and make sure it is fully utilised.

Looking ahead – both independently as Pinelands Players as well as in collaboration with other societies -- we hope to put on small to medium-sized shows in 2025, while working towards something more significant in 2026. To this end, we have put out a call for proposals and the Committee is waiting with great excitement to see what presents itself.

Dates to Diarise

In 2023, Joy Millar started a new type of event unique to Pinelands Players - Subway Sessions. The intention of these music evenings hosted at the Clubhouse is to give an opportunity for new performers, or those who have not performed recently, to get some experience in a supportive and friendly environment. We have hosted a couple of these sessions, and they are always well supported and incredibly fun!



We are very excited to announce that we will be holding the next Subway Sessions on Friday 14th and Saturday 15th June – if you are interested in being on stage as part of this, please let any committee member know. An invitation will be distributed soon with ticket details but mark your diaries so long!

Looking beyond our own plans, a number of our Pinelands Players members are part of the next show being presented by Bonny White. These soirees were hosted for many years at the Clubhouse and we are very excited to be welcoming Bonny and her talented performers back towards the end of the year. In the meantime, to get a taste of what to expect, please go and support.

BONNY WHITE PRESENTS



**PIECES
OF
WORK**

**AN ECLECTIC MIX OF SONGS CELEBRATING THE
WORKPLACE AND THE HIGHS AND LOWS OF THE
CAREER CHOICES WE MAKE.**

**THURS 6 JUNE, FRI 7 JUNE,
SAT 8 JUNE
7:30PM
23 LINDESHOF ROAD,
CONSTANTIA HILLS
TICKETS R100**

**BOOKINGS: BONNY 083 357 7337
PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN TIPPLE!**

That's it from our side. We always welcome your feedback and input, and we plan to keep everyone updated with changes over the coming months. Please interact with us by email (pinelandsplayers@gmail.com), on Facebook or Instagram (@pinelands_players). Hope to see you all soon!